

Advent Devotions - Jesus is Lord

☐ Monday - Jehovah Jesus, the Great I AM.

God introduced Himself to Moses as the "I AM" (Ex. 3:14), referring to God's eternal Self-existence. Of all of the names of God, this is perhaps the most revered. Formed by the four Hebrew letters YHWH, the name is often pronounced "Yahweh," or the Latinized form "Jehovah." Preceding Christ's birth, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name *Jesus* [which means "Yahweh saves"], for it is He [i.e. Yahweh Jesus] who will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Jesus identified Himself by this name, declaring, "Unless you believe that I AM, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24), and again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM" (John 8:58). Here then is a profound mystery: born in Bethlehem on that starry night, the Infinite to the form of an infant. Read John 1:14

☐ Tuesday - Jesus is Lord of All!

What causes men and angels to look with such profound awe at the incarnation? It is the same thing, I pray, that you will see this Christmas as you think upon the tiny occupant of that manger: That little baby was Lord of heaven and earth! In Scripture Jesus is called "the Lord of peace" (2 Thess. 3:16), "the Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:6-8), "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mt. 12:8), "the Lord of lords" (Rev 17:14), and "Lord of all" (Rom. 10:12). Someone has said, Jesus is Lord *of* all, or He is not Lord *at* all, in your life." So then, amidst all of the many preparations that go into Christmas, by far the most important preparation this season must be to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart" (1 Pet. 3:15). Read Revelation 19:11-16

☐ Wednesday - Who Can Forgive Sins, But God Alone?

When Jesus healed the paralytic and forgave him of his sins the scribes and the Pharisees argued, "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" (Lk. 5:21). They knew that God forgives, but they did not know the God who forgives; that is, they knew the principle, but not the Person. This advent week we celebrate Jesus as Lord, God incarnate, who came to earth armed with the power to forgive. "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" they asked (Lk. 7:49). He is the Lord, is our reply! "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Lk. 5:24). Even now, He speaks to those who come to Him by faith: "Friend, your sins are forgiven you" (Lk. 5:20). Read Luke 5:17-26

☐ Thursday - The Birth of Our the Deliverer!

In the Old Testament, Moses delivered Israel out of Egypt, but who could get Egypt out of Israel? The people were still in bondage to the sin inside them. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a new Deliverer who delivers His people from the penalty and power of sin. Jesus "gave Himself for our sins, that He might *deliver* us out of this present evil age" (Gal. 1:4). "Mary did you know ... this child that you delivered would soon deliver you?" (Song). Read Colossians 1:13-14

☐ Friday - Jesus is God is Love.

Jesus is God (Isa. 9:6; John 1:1-2, 10:33, 14:9-10; 20:28; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:8), and God is love (1 John 4:8,16). Hence, Jesus is the embodiment of love (John 13:1, 15:13). O what joy lights the heart of him who discovers Jesus is the omnipotent "Lover of my soul," as Wesley calls Him. Christ's love toward you, Christian, is infinite (Psa. 103:11), eternal (Psa. 103:17), unchanging (Micah 7:18), and unfailing (1 Cor. 13:8). He is the "Hound of Heaven" (Thompson), whose love relentlessly pursues the children of God. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ, because the Hound has been let out of the cage! Read Romans 8:35, 38-39